

Take a few simple measures to protect your home.

Trim bushes and trees so burglars can't hide around your home. Make sure branches don't block lighting.

One of the best deterrents to residential burglaries is good outdoor lighting, so consider installing a quality system with motion detection.

Invest in high-quality locks, a solid entry door, and consider safety laminate for your windows to make them resistant to break-ins.

If you have an alarm system, use it! Learn how it works so you can operate it smoothly in an emergency or an accidental activation.

With so many home security cameras on the market today, consider investing in one, or several! Some basic systems that let you watch live from your cell phone cost as little as \$40 or \$50. Advanced systems offer more features for more money. Home security footage is one of the first things deputies look for when investigating a crime!



CONTACT US:

Contact the VSO Community Relations Unit to organize your own Neighborhood Watch.

Volusia Sheriff's Office
Community Relations Unit (CRU)
communityrelations@vcso.us
386-736-5333
www.volusiasheriff.org

IF YOU NEED HELP:

The Volusia Sheriff's Office
Communications Center dispatches all
police, fire and EMS calls in Volusia County.

In an emergency, dial **911**

You can also **send a text to 911** if you
can't make a phone call.

Non-emergency line: 386-248-1777
or #VCSO (#8276) from any cell phone

STARTING A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM



VOLUSIA
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
SHERIFF
MICHAEL J. CHITWOOD

WHAT IS A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?

It's a neighborhood organization that helps provide extra eyes and ears for law enforcement. Members report suspicious activity to the Sheriff's Office the moment it's observed. Neighborhood Watch groups are a great way for citizens to work together to prevent crime, maintain a safe community **and** build relationships with neighbors.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

A captain and co-captain work with a local Crime Prevention Deputy to educate all members of the group in the principles of deterrence, delay and detection, and set up a communication network to keep the entire group informed. The key is to share information and report suspicious activity!



HOW DO WE START?

Step 1:

Contact your neighbors and see if they want the program. Talk to them in person, send invites via U.S. mail or email, use social media or post flyers. Remember, in order to be a certified Neighborhood Watch Program, you must meet quarterly and provide the VSO Community Relations Unit with a copy of a sign-in sheet and minutes from each meeting.

Step 2:

Select a block captain and co-captain. We recommend a rotation among members to avoid burn-out. Then establish a calling list with the names, addresses, phone numbers and emails of all participating members. Forward us a copy, and review it often to keep it up-to-date!

Step 3:

Contact us to set a meeting date with our Crime Prevention Deputy in attendance!

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU

See something, say something!

No law enforcement agency can function effectively without the assistance of responsible citizens. Some people fail to report suspicious activity simply because they're not aware of what to look for. Others might notice something strange, but hesitate to report it for fear of becoming a nosy neighbor. Many just take for granted that someone else has already called.

Don't worry about all that. Let us take a look. That's why we're here! If your suspicions are unfounded, no problem. But think about how you'd feel if you didn't report something that could have prevented a crime.

Build a stronger community!

Get to know your neighbors, and look for ways to help them out. One day you might need a hand, too!

Be aware of your surroundings when you're out and about. Don't spend too much time looking at your phone when you should be noticing the people around you!

Get involved in your community, whether it's through a Neighborhood Watch or some other program. It's not just good for the organization - it can be great for your physical and mental health!